



THE COMMUNICATOR SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Volume II

January 2010

Issue XLI

VE7SAR

VE7RSC

PRESIDENT— John Brodie VA7XB
VICE PRESIDENT - Don Hamilton VA7GL
SECRETARY—Gordon Kirk VE7GRK
TREASURER - Scott Hawrelak VE7CNR
WEB SITE - <http://www3.telus.net/ve7sar/>
WEB MASTER - Hiu Yee VE7XYG
COMMUNICATOR EDITOR—Fred Orsetti
VE7IO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bill Gipps—VE7XS
John Schouten - VE7TI
Anton James VE7SSD
Fred Orsetti - VE7IO
John Brodie VA7XB



Surrey Amateur Radio Club

ALWAYS MONITOR 147.36+ (110.9)
OR 443.775+ (110.9 in and out) IRLP 1463

CLUB NET @ 8:00 P.M. Tuesday 147.36+ (110.9)

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS : 239 -7156 121 St. Surrey, B.C. V3W 0J6

**The next meeting of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday February 10th 2010 at Number Nine Training Centre 14901 64th Avenue
Talk in on 147.36+ (110.9) 443.775+ (110.9)**

Minutes for Jan 13, 2010 SAR Club Meeting

der at 8:45 pm by John Brodie after confirming a quorum of club members was present.

1. The general meeting was started at 7:30 pm Jan 13, 2010 by Interm President John Brodie VA7XB. 11 members and 8 guests were in attendance at the Surrey Fire Dept Training Center.

2. Amel Krdzalic (VA7KBA) the founder of BC Radio Sport gave a presentation on Radio Orienteering made easy.

3. A business meeting was called to or-

4. A recommendation by the Executive to proceed with the purchase of an Embedded IRLP node at a cost of approximately \$850.00 plus tax was discussed. A motion by Gordon Kirk was made that SARC proceed with the Executive Recommendation and purchase the Embedded IRLP node at a cost of \$850.00 plus taxes. Scott Hawrelak (VE7CNR) seconded this motion. Motion carried

5. Scott Hawrelak (VE7CNR - SARC Treasurer) reported the club had \$1086 in the chequing account and \$3466 in the savings account.

6. A brief discussion around the club changing the meeting from the first to the second Wednesday of the month occurred. No objections were noted so the meetings will now occur on the second Wednesday of the month.

7. Antenna Trailers have been moved to a storage location Fred Orsetti (VE7IO) was able to secure through the Surrey Fire Services. The new location is in covered storage by Hall #17 in the area of 152nd St and 32nd Ave.

8. Hui Yee (VE7YXG) has updated and improved the club website. Please check it out www3.telus.net/ve7sar/

9. Scott (VE7CNR) reported the cost to the club for the Christmas Party was approximately \$143.00. Income was \$1080 and expenses \$1224.00 (difference \$143). In addition to the above report the only other expense this past month was \$117 for RAC insurance.

10. A by-election was carried out by Fred Orsetti on behalf of the Executive. An explanation of why we were holding an election for President and Vice-

President occurred. John Brodie VA7XB was nominated for President, and Don

Hamilton VA7GL was nominated for Vice-President. Both agreed to stand for election. A call for further nominations was made. No other nominations occurred and both John and Don were elected to the nominated positions.

11. Olympic Call signs are available and Fred Orsetti asked members if we as a club should book the call and participate in the BARTG contest on the Jan 23. Fred will try to book the calls and if any members are interested in working this they should contact Fred or John.

Next Meeting will be Feb 10, 2010. A presentation from Langley Club members on the International Space Station is planned.



President's Report
for January 2010 -
Big Things are Happen-
ing, Folks!

First priority this month is to welcome Steve VE7ASO, John VE7JVK and Jay VE7OFH to SARC. We look forward to working with these new members and hearing their ideas for making SARC an ever better Club.

Anyone who has been off the planet for the last month may not realize that SARC's monthly meetings have been rescheduled from the first to the second Wednesday of each month. An earlier start, at 7:00 pm, has also been initiated

in order to provide more time for social interaction and greeting visitors and new members before the formal business and presentations begin at 7:30. In addition, the meeting venue has been changed from the PREOC (which is now in lockdown mode for the 2010 Olympics) to No. 9 Firehall Training Centre (map and location can be found on the website). Which reminds me ... if you have not checked out the SARC website for some time, do so now and you will be pleasantly surprised – our website coordinator, Hiu VE7YXG, has made some great changes, including a Calendar of Events, but that is just the beginning as other enhancements are planned for the weeks ahead.

2010 got off to a stimulating start at SARC's first meeting of the year with a great presentation by Amel VA7KBA on the competitive sport of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF aka bunny hunting or fox hunting) including some pointers on winning strategies for participants. There is a growing interest in ARDF locally such that we can expect serious challenges from other clubs at SARC's invitational Bunny Hunt in May – watch for details. At a business meeting after the presentation, the membership approved the expenditure of club funds for a 2 metre IRLP/Echolink controller/node. Steve VE7MAN and Dave VE7LTD will likely have it in-

stalled and working it at the Newton repeater site by the time you read this report.

What else is planned for the next few months, you ask? In February we will welcome several members of Langley ARA who have graciously consented to give a presentation on their recent two successful contacts with the International Space Station. In March, we have lined up one of the early pioneers in moonbounce (or EME – earth/moon/earth) to speak on the topic “Getting Started in Moonbounce”. This will be of great interest to a few of our members who are moving ahead on assembling an EME station to be installed at “Gipps Acres” Langley farm QTH of Bill VE7XS. At the April meeting we plan to have some instruction on use of the IRLP and Echolink node. In May some bunny hunt coaching and/or practice in preparation for the actual event will likely take place. Ham classes should also start in April, once the classroom location has been finalized – more on that coming soon on the website. After the AGM in June, then it's on to the big event of the year – Field Day. Your Field Day committee has already started planning for this, and is considering the feasibility of a joint effort with Langley ARA, so that we can put in a 100% effort and overcome the usual short supply of operators.



Radio Ori- enteering Made Easy (by an Expert)

On its first
meeting of

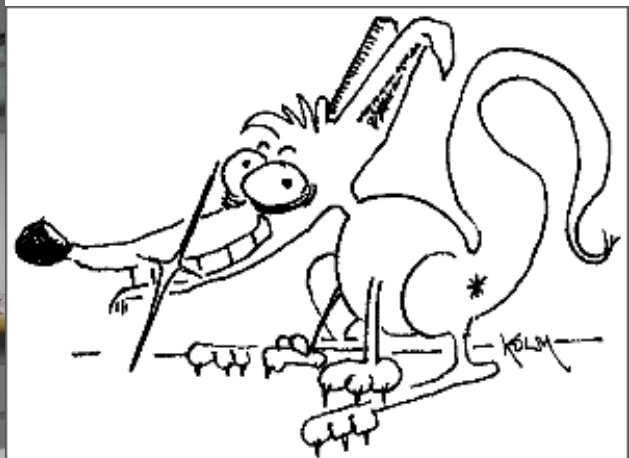
2010, SARC members and guests from other clubs were treated to an informative presentation on Radio Orienteering (aka fox hunting, bunny hunting, ARDF – amateur radio direction finding) by Amel Krdzalic VA7KBA. Amel was introduced by Anton VE7SSD who informed the audience that Amel brings many years of European experience from Bosnia and Herzegovina, is a founding member of BC RadioSport and has participated in international competitions, including representing Team Canada in 2008. He will be travelling to Croatia this year to compete in ARDF World Championship as a member of Canada's delegation. Lou Beaubien VE7CGE, a member of the Burnaby Club, assisted Amel with his presentation by displaying and explaining some innovative home-built foxes and antennas.

Amel began by reviewing his youthful introduction to HF fox hunts, historical and modern applications for RDF, the advantages and disadvantages of directional antennas, radios and electronic aids, then finished off with some practical pointers about strategies for those participating in competitive events. The many questions put to Amel are testament to the interest of his audience, and a clear signal that SARC's bunny hunt in May 2010 will meet with some keen competition from other clubs. Many thanks to Amel and Lou for a really informative presentation, and to Anton for organizing it.



73

John VA7XB



By John Brodie

Telus Donates Tower/Trailer to Surrey ARC !

“This is like winning the lottery!” commented one of the elated SARC members present when viewing the tower/trailer combination donated by Telus to Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

Telus Fleet Standards & Maintenance Manager, Wayne Butler, and Fleet Technician, Dan Auld, in demonstrating the tower to the happy group, said that the reason SARC had been singled out for this gift was that they were aware of the contributions that Surrey ARC and SEPAR Society had made to emergency communications in Surrey, and they wanted to be sure that it would be put to good use in service to the community.

After the stabilizer arms are spread, and with the push of a button the hydraulic system and power winch will raise the tower to a vertical position then extend it to a height of 107 ft. The generator can deliver 8 kw at 120 and 240 volts which should be more than ample to power a full complement of radios, amplifiers, and ancillary gear (maybe even the coffee pot!).

Thanks to Surrey Fire Services, we also now have a very secure location to store this unit along with SARC's other towers and trailers. Some fun hours will be spent by the proud owners getting famil-

iar with this equipment, learning how to use it safely and putting it to use in contests, emergency simulations and, if needed, in real events.





Haiti Earthquake

Report from RAC: We have all seen the tragic human toll and devastation of the Haitian earthquake as reported by the media. We have been asked what the Amateur community is doing about it. To our knowledge, since the earthquake, less than half a dozen Hams have been reporting from Haiti and have done so very sporadically. Most have severe constraints for electricity, fuel or other required facilities.

Apart from a couple of Hams embedded with the UN or the Red Cross, none other has succeeded in entering the country and staying to operate. Yesterday, a convoy of Dominicans, made up of representatives from that government and including 8 Amateurs, entered Haiti by road on its way to their Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Almost at destination they were attacked by gunfire resulting in one dead and several wounded. All 8 Amateurs are safe. The convoy turned around and is now safely back in the Dominican Republic.

Outside of Haiti, there are scores of Hams listening on the published HF fre-

quencies for emergency communications and ready for any QSPs. Here in Canada, RAC Vice President Field Services, Doug Mercer, VO1DTM, is watching the situation very closely, ready to give any help that might be needed. RAC also has French speaking operators like Gerry, VE2AW and Richard, VE2DX, who are ready on the frequencies to speak to anyone in need in Haiti.

RAC is getting ready for the future. At the Request of the Salvation Army SATERN, RAC has recruited about 20 Hams, fluent in French, who are now poised to leave for Haiti when required.



Langley ARA Makes Contact with the International Space Station

**Hear all about it at Surrey ARC's
February 10th, 2010 Meeting**

Coffee at 7:00 pm, with meeting commencing at 7:30 pm

Our guest speakers – Greg Banta VA7GAB & Charlie Milazzo VE7RM – will describe what inspired the contact, the equipment assembled, the techniques and the actual event.

All are welcome, but we ask that you RSVP via e-mail if you plan on attending: John VA7XB
va7xb@rac.ca

The location of the meeting is:
Training Centre behind No. 9 Firehall
14901 64th Ave., Surrey

To see a map go to
SARC's website <http://www3.telus.net/ve7sar/>
Talk-in 147.360+ (110.9 tone)

For Sale

Roger Anderson has for sale:

Two 19 inch racks listed on Craigslist at
\$ 115 for the pair and the desk at \$ 125

but open to offers for anything left at the
site. Hate to see it go to waste.
Anyone would be interested ??

Roger VE7FZX
Phone 604-599-5326

Learn CW...

Every Tuesday evening *after* the Surrey Amateur Radio Club's VHF Net at 20:30 local time on VE7RSC repeater (147.360 tone 110.9) there is 20 minutes of Morse code practice sent in 5 minute "tracks." We started in November with learning the characters, numbers and prosigns at 5 w.p.m. and during January I will be sending practice sessions from 5, 6.6, 8 and 10 w.p.m.

February through March speeds will increase from 10 to 15 w.p.m. and April to May we go from 15 to 22 w.p.m. – Just in time for Field Day.

The on-air course starts all over again in late September.

Practice sessions – converted from audio format to MP3 -- are made available after each Tuesday, on my FTP site at <http://www.members.shaw.ca/gws/> for a two-day period and then the next track is uploaded, again for a two-day period until the entire course from beginning to end has been posted.

Audio format CD's can be ordered by e-mailing me at ve7as@rac.ca for a nominal fee to pay for the 8 CDs in the series plus postage.

CODE ENDORSEMENTS:

At any time after you can send and receive 12 w.p.m. with 100% confidence, go to <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf06064.html> and download the application. Contact your club's Volunteer Examiner and arrange to take your endorsement exam.

To register, or for further information on hand-keys, keyers & paddles, practice oscillators, etc. Contact me via e-mail.

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Gary VE7AS.